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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 780
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the organizers,
volunteers, participants and the reigning Queen
of 2002 Mule Day in Columbia, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those
outstanding events that serve as icons of the cultural heritage of this great State; and

WHEREAS, Mule Day in Columbia, Maury County, is one such event where
Tennesseans can express their civic pride on a national and international level; and

WHEREAS, Mule Day in Columbia has been a tradition since 1840, when the first
Monday in April brought huge crowds to the animal livestock show and Mule Day Market
(originally called "Breeders' Day"); and

WHEREAS, mules are such a big business in Maury County that, at one time, Columbia
Mule Day had the distinction of being one of the largest livestock markets in the world; and

WHEREAS, Columbia thus became renowned as the "Mule Capital of the World" and
that fair city still hosts the world's largest celebration honoring the world's most important hybrid,
the mule; and

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WHEREAS, over the years, Mule Day, with its festive air, has evolved into what is now a week-long celebration of the mule; and

WHEREAS, celebrated during the first week in April of each year (April 4-7, 2002) and sponsored by the Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club, Mule Day attracts thousands of visitors from all 50 states, Japan, Canada, Germany, Mexico, England, and numerous other countries; and

WHEREAS, Mule Day activities are both varied and numerous, ranging from shows and events featuring draft mules, driving mules, Western mules, gaited mules, pulling mules, bucking pony mules, mule races and mule barrel races to many outstanding non-mule events, including musical performances of all types, the Cowboy Mounted Shooters, stock car racing, a liars contest, square dancing, a knife and coin show, a beauty pageant, a flea market, a crafts festival, and a pancake breakfast; and

WHEREAS, Mule Day has been selected by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of its top 20 events for the month of April 2002; this honor marks the 8th consecutive year that Mule Day has received this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the troubling times our nation is now enduring, the theme for 2002 Mule Day is "Mules and Americans Pulling Together"; and

WHEREAS, the success of any large scale event is dependent upon the abilities and dedication of its organizers and volunteers; people who proudly serve with determination, acumen, and most of all, heart; people like Knoxie Goad; and

WHEREAS, Knoxie Goad has served on the Mule Day Committee since its rejuvenation in 1974; she was one of the original planners appointed in 1973 to study the feasibility of bringing Mule Day back to Maury County; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Knoxie Goad has been referred to as "Mrs. Mule Day"; this apt moniker stems from the fact that she has always been THE person to ask for information about Mule Day; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to Mule Day has been recognized many times over by her fellow Mule Day committee members, as well as the local citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goad has served Mule Day in many capacities over the years; she is perhaps best known for her meritorious service as arts and crafts director, concessions director and office manager; during her outstanding tenure as office manager, she ensured that the Mule Day festival was in compliance with all the permit requirements of state and local governments, a task in itself; and

WHEREAS, Knoxie Goad has meticulously maintained her own Mule Day memorabilia collection; this collection has been very helpful when the committee needed to find or confirm information about past Mule Days; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goad has now retired from the Mule Day office, but she is still frequently called upon to give expert advice; her contributions and dedication have been instrumental in making Mule Day the success that it is today; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goad resides in Columbia with her husband, Lambert; she feels her greatest accomplishment in life is her family, which includes three sons, David, Donald, and Daniel; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goad has certainly earned inclusion in the "Mule Day Hall of Fame," because, to borrow a phrase from one of her Mule Day comrades, "Knoxie takes Mule Day to bed with her"; and

WHEREAS, another vital component of Mule Day is the exalted reign of the Mule Day Queen, and the 2002 Mule Day Queen is the lovely Kayla Dale of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, a senior at Culleoka Unit School, Kayla is the daughter of justifiably proud parents, Jimmy and Brenda Dale; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dale is a stellar scholar who will graduate fifth in her class this spring; she has been nominated for "Who's Who Among America's High School Students" for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, Kayla is also an incredibly gifted athlete who has been honored with the National Athletic Award; she has received a full athletic scholarship to attend Alabama A&M University; and

WHEREAS, the highlight of Kayla's illustrious reign as Mule Day Queen will be her central role in the world class Mule Day Parade on April 6, 2002; and

WHEREAS, as the 2002 Mule Day Queen, Kayla will represent the County of Maury and the fair City of Columbia with the utmost grace and joy; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to properly recognize Mule Day and its fine hosts for the impeccably gracious manner in which they represent the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the organizers, volunteers, participants and the reigning Queen of 2002 Mule Day in Columbia, for their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice in presenting the world's largest celebration of the world's most important hybrid, the mule, in a most professional manner and in a most authentic setting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to these fine folks our best wishes for yet another highly successful and wildly enjoyable Mule Day celebration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.